

Hill, and even out to amusement parks in the Washington, D.C., area. He was a great father to his five children. But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, he was a great American and a very fine, distinguished Member of Congress.

I will miss him. I know his family will miss him. I know the citizens of New Jersey will miss him. He was a great American.

□ 1250

#### MEDICARE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, these are tough times for the American people everywhere. In my home State of California, families face a 12 percent unemployment rate, and the gas prices are well over \$4 a gallon.

But instead of working together to solve the problems, the Republican leadership has voted to end Medicare as we know it and extend the tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas.

This week the Senate will have its chance to vote on a reckless Republican budget. The consequences of this misguided plan are devastating for the senior citizens—again I state—devastating to the senior citizens and the middle class.

In California alone, the Republican budget would cost seniors—I state—cost seniors over \$214 million in higher prescription drug costs next year; cut almost \$54 billion in Medicaid funding for seniors and the disabled; and would cost us 186,000 private sector jobs that will be lost over the next 5 years.

We must scrap this plan. Let us work together on a reasonable budget to protect Medicare.

#### AMERICAN JOB CREATORS

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about jobs.

Over a month ago, I launched my participation in American Job Creators. All too often in Washington, regulations are created that end up stifling job creation across our Nation. That is why I chose to participate in American Job Creators. With unemployment at 9 percent, it was common sense to me to ask the job-creating experts what regulations are affecting their ability to grow and expand.

One job creator in my district, Jodie, is a home builder. She went to AmericanJobCreators.com and used the platform to communicate with me. Jodie identified the onerous banking regulations created by the Dodd-Frank Act, making it more difficult for contractors to borrow money from lending institutions. This, in turn, makes it more difficult to complete and start new projects. We know the housing cri-

sis has made it difficult on the construction industry, but adding these regulations has further stifled the industry's ability to recover and to create jobs in America.

I would like to thank Jodie for her participation and encourage more people to go to AmericanJobCreators.com.

#### WE MUST PROTECT MEDICARE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the American people to protect Medicare.

It's pretty simple. The Republicans, if they had their way, it would mean a catastrophic end to the program and it would deep-six protections for seniors and improvements to Medicare that we made under the Affordable Care Act.

Medicare has long been a reliable source of coverage for seniors, ensuring they can afford the care they need. In Maryland, the GOP plan would force seniors to pay nearly \$6,800 more in out-of-pocket expenses for health care in the first year alone. And at a time when seniors are economically vulnerable, this proposal would further threaten their quality of life.

While their budget, to date, hasn't produced a single jobs-creating bill, what they would do in these next several months is to cut more than 2 million private sector jobs across the country.

So right now the Republicans are heading for the hills, trying to distance themselves from what they're trying to do to Medicare, but it's clear that the American people want to protect Medicare.

So I urge my colleagues to join with us and oppose this controversial change that would end the decades-old promise to the American people.

It's a simple question: Whose side are you on? Well, I'm on the side, and Democrats are on the side of seniors and not the wealthy health insurance industry and Big Oil bandits.

#### THE UNITED STATES STANDS WITH ISRAEL

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we just heard from a leader of a nation that is one of America's greatest friends and allies: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of the nation of Israel.

The Prime Minister was correct in saying that in the often shifting alliances in the Middle East, only Israel stands as our unwavering ally. And his message for peace and security should not be heard just in this Chamber but across the world.

Many in the world often like to scapegoat Israel as the cause of insta-

bility in the Middle East and the reason why a Palestinian state has not been created. And nothing can be further from the truth.

As the Prime Minister said, the conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state; it has always been about the existence of a Jewish state.

It is time for the Palestinian President, Abbas, to stand before his people and state that he is ready to accept peace and live side by side with the Jewish State of Israel. Only then can peace be achieved.

Until that time and on into the future, the people of the world should know that the United States of America will always stand strong with the nation of Israel.

□ 1300

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 990) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

**SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 112-1 (125 Stat. 3), is amended by striking “May 31, 2011” each place it appears and inserting “September 30, 2011”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on May 30, 2011.

#### SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended by inserting after subsection (r) the following:

“(s) *COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.*—All funds awarded, appropriated, or otherwise made available in accordance with subsection (f) or (n) must be awarded pursuant to competitive and merit-based selection procedures.”.